

ABSTRACT

Derivatized carbohydrates are provided which can be used to form a variety of materials including solid delivery systems. The derivatized carbohydrates are generally carbohydrates, wherein at least a portion of the hydroxyl groups on the carbohydrate are substituted with a branched hydrophobic chain, such as a hydrocarbon chain, via, for example, an ether or ester linkage. The solid delivery systems can be used for delivery and release of a variety of substances, and are, for example, in the form of tablets for oral administration, or in the form of powders, microspheres or implants for intravenous, intradermal, transdermal, pulmonary or other route of administration. The derivatized carbohydrates can be processed to form a solid matrix having a substance, such as a therapeutic agent, incorporated therein. In one embodiment, the solid matrix is provided in a solid dose form which is capable of releasing a therapeutic substance *in situ* at various controlled rates.